**N**ame: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: In February of 2010, the New York Times asked students to post their opinions to this topic online. Their responses are listed below. Read each argument and highlight or underline any points that you agree with or perhaps hadn’t considered before. Then, write your own opinion piece to be posted online ☺**

I can realy only see one side of this argument, and that is that they should get rid of this “dont ask, dont tell” law. I am actually bisexual myself and have alot of gay and lesbian friends, this topic in a sence hits home because I was considering joining the military when I was 18; im not just going to stay silent about WHO I AM in order to serve my country. “Allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would be the right thing to do.” I completley agree with this, it WOULD be the righ thing to do for so many reasons, one being that this is the military of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, where we are supposed to be a free country, its simply un-american to have soldiers at heart who may be gay or lesbian to not let people know about there sexuality. Just because someone has a defferent sexual prefferance about them does not mean they are different from any other american soldier who serves in this military today. We should not have to keep quiet about who we are.

*— josie*

Those who know me are aware of my mixed feelings on this. While I am and always have been very supportive of homosexual rights, this lift on the “don’t ask, don’t tell” makes me very nervous. I have read the policy ,as I am in the military and active duty, and there really isn’t any part of it that bans homosexuals from serving in the military. As long as they do not flaunt their sexuality, which is something that EVERYONE should be avoiding in the first place, homosexuals can join and serve the same as everyone else. Personally, I fear for the safety of the homosexuals in the military. I feel that if you make it know that you are homosexual then you are putting yourself at the mercy of a group of individuals that are stressed to the max, in tight quarters, with weapons, in high levels of testosterone , and possible prejudice . Something horrible is destine to happen.

*— Lex*

We are all human, and we all different on the inside.  
If lesbians and gays want to work in the military, let them work. I feel people are so worried about this because gays and lesbians in the general public have shown themselves to be gentle and soft, and so, because of that, they feel it would interfere with the other military members. If they show themselves to be strong, obediant and can do what they are told to do, I say let them work in the military.

*— Optimus Prime\**

If we currently do not allow male and female soldiers to shower together (not necessarily in the same shower, but even just next to each other), then I can see why some people might think it awkward to allow same-sex orientation individuals to shower either next to each other or next to heteros. It may be mean to say so, but that is the reality. However, I would think that most jobs do not require just close quarters contact. And in those situations, it shoudl not matter what a person’s orientation is.

It’s not enough to just say “get over it.” If it affects people’s interactions and how awkwardly they feel around each other, then it affects a combat unit’s performance.

So, for the time being, perhaps just separate out different military occupations and have different rules for different ones? I mean, i know that sounds discriminatory, but last I checked, Admiral Mullen, women are not allowed to be Navy SEALs or serve on submarines. That’s discriminatory too and yet those divisions hold.

*— Lordvoldemort\**

**\*Optimus Prime & LordVoldemort are the real names posted with these responses**

**Your response:**

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| * 4 points: Clearly explains the policy of “Don’t ask, don’t tell” | * 4 points: Clearly articulates the writer’s stance on “Don’t ask, don’t tell” | * 2 points: uses class time effectively to complete the response |